Damage Caused by Rains and Flood in Kerala

482. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread damage caused by heavy rains and flood in Kerala, recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the estimated loss, the financial assistance sought by the State Government and the assistance extended by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by the State Government, the rains and resulted floods damages paddy crop in an area of 1.13 lakh ha., besides damage to Banana and vegetables to large extent. The entire (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 46.08 crore has been released to the State in connection with immediate relief & rehabilitation measures. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assitance of Rs. 899.94 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the State for assesment of the situation and has submitted its report. Further action is being taken as per the established procedure for grant of assistance if any, from the NFCR.

Onion Seeds

483. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of farmers in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have not been able to sow onions in their fields on account of acute shortage of onion seeds; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to make available the onion seeds to the farmers at a reasonable rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No reports have been received about non-sowing of onion by farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana due to shortage of onion seeds.

कृषि विकास योजनाएं

484. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार कृषि विकास संबंधी योजनाओं मे कुल निधियों को साठ प्रतिशत राशि व्यय करने जा रही है; और

(ख) कृषि विकास हेतु ऐसी कौन सी नई योजनाएं शुरू की गई हैं जिनसे कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो रही है और किसानों को मदद भी मिल रही है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के एक संशोधित मसौदे को अन्तिम रूप दिया जा रहा है।

Development of Pulses and Vegetables

485. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan for the development of pulses and vegetables in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to the State for the purpose during the last two years; and

(d) whether the funds released by Government were fully utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A centrally sponsored scheme National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented by the Central Govt. in 26 States/UTs. including Bihar for increasing production and productivity of pulses. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the state for production and